

Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC)

Overview

ITAC is a not-for-profit corporation organized to represent local telephone companies in Illinois. ITAC provides assistive telecommunications devices on a loan basis capable of servicing the needs of subscribers who are certified as permanently hearing disabled, deaf-blind, speech-disabled, hearing-sight disabled or speech-sight disabled as well as, training on its use.

ITAC also provides Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) under contract with Sprint. TRS allows specially trained Communications Assistants (CA) to relay conversations over the telephone between a person using an assistive telecommunications device and a person who uses a voice telephone.

ITAC's office is located at:

Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation
3001 Montvale Drive
Suite D
Springfield, IL 62704
217-698-4170 (V / TTY)
800-841-6167 (V / TTY)
217-698-0942 (Fax)
<http://www.itactty.org> (web site)

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ITAC – Funding

ITAC is funded by a monthly line charge applied to each subscriber line in Illinois. This line item shall be identified as "IL Telecom Relay Service and Equipment" or an equivalent phrase by July 1, 2004. The current line charge amount is 8 cents (.8 cents per Centrex line). Over the years, the line charge has ranged from 3 cents to 15 cents per month. This charge is evaluated annually around June 1; and based on projected expenses it may be adjusted. The most recent Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) order is in Docket 03-0213.

ITAC – History

In 1985, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Universal Telephone Service Protection Law. This law called for the ICC to establish programs designated to promote telecommunications opportunities for persons with hearing or speech disabilities. The two key elements of the law provided for the distribution of TTYs at no charge to eligible recipients and a telephone relay service.

In the fall of 1988, ITAC, a not-for-profit organization representing local telephone companies in Illinois was formed to meet the requirements of the law. ITAC has contracted with Distribution Centers throughout the state to provide eligible persons with assistive telecommunications equipment on a loan basis, as well as, training on its use. Illinois' loan program enables persons who are certified as permanently hearing disabled, deaf-blind, speech-disabled, hearing-sight disabled, or speech-sight disabled

to obtain an assistive telecommunications device at no charge so they may communicate by telephone.